Vacations have a way of flying by and fading from memory all too quickly. When planning your next getaway, make it truly count by building in an unforgettable experience or two. Cook with a local chef, throw a pot at a famous ceramics studio, learn to meditate, or get up close to wildlife in the African bush. Consider these ideas as a jumping-off point, and we promise you’ll bring home far more than a suntan and an airport souvenir.

TRIPS THAT TRANSPORT

Traveling with your four-legged friend makes any adventure—including this hike through Boulder’s breathtaking Flatiron Mountains—definitely better. For the right lodging, we suggest an Airbnb rental that welcomes pets. These accommodations are often bigger than a hotel room, and some even have a backyard.
COOK WITH A LOCAL

Sicilian Countryside
During the three- and six-day workshops at the storied Anna Tasca Lanza Cooking Experience in Sicily, where you’ll cook with seasonal and other farm-fresh ingredients.

Chiang Mai, Thailand
On a daylong adventure with the Thai Farm Cooking School, you’ll visit a local market, then head to the school’s own organic farm to prepare five dishes, including a curry, a stir-fry, and a noodle dish like pad Thai.

Punta Gorda, Belize
Set in the jungle, the Lanza Cooking Classes out of their home in Palermo Hollywood. Whip up empanadas—dough and two fillings—from scratch, and serve it to make a sweet souvenir to take home—all while nibbling on samples from their home in Palermo Hollywood.

MAKE SOME ROOM

LEAVE YOUR INNER STORM IN THE CAR

Embark on a hands-on journey where you’ll work alongside the local artisans who helped preserve the traditional craft of wood turning. By day, you’ll learn to transform cherry and maple into useful forms—from a bowl gouge, or a spindle—to take home. At night, you’ll get a glimpse of the pristine New England town. Don’t miss dinner at 36 Central Oyster Bar & Grill in bustling main, or nearby Corinne, at Frances by renowned local chef Brian Htx.)

FROM ITALY

Buenos Aires, Argentina
A husband-and-wife team Veronica Tarragona, a travel planner, and Manuel Escalante Posse, a professional chef, run Tira Negra Cooking Classes out of their home in Palermo Hollywood. Whip up empanadas—dough and two fillings—from scratch, and serve it to make a sweet souvenir to take home—all while nibbling on samples from their home in Palermo Hollywood.

Tierra Negra Cooking Classes

“On a recent trip, we dried the tomatoes outside, and they turned into an incredibly potent flavor. That night was almost like eating the fresh. I don’t believe there’s anything better than this.”—Elizabeth Minchilli, food writer and author of the best-selling cookbook at Lanza Cooking Experience

TASTE SOUTH AMERICA

Chiguacuy, Peru
On a daylong adventure with the Peru July Cooking School, you’ll learn the basics of making empanadas—from scratch, served with llajua sauce. On a daylong adventure with the Peru July Cooking School, you’ll learn the basics of making empanadas—from scratch, served with llajua sauce.

Pompeii, Italy
A 5-1/2-acre property planted with organic cacao trees.

From $35, theclaystudio.org.

From $72, lacuisineparis.com.

From $70, buenosairesargentina.com.

From $70, belcampobz.com.

From $70, tierranegragourmet.com.

From $2,500 per person (includes classes and lodging), annatascalanza.com.

From $104, dessarts.com.

MAKE A MEMORY & GRILL IN ROCKPORT

Work Some Wood

Craftsmanship, Rockport, Massachusetts
If you’re inspired by the ancient pottery on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, sign up for the one-person introductory wheel workshops at this storied studio (est. 1974). You’ll learn the basics of making a form and complete two or three pieces, which the staff will glaze, fire, and ship home for you. Or live out your Ghost flames at a casual Date Night event. These happen three Fridays a month, and the fee includes beer, wine, and snacks. (You can play “Unchained Melody” in your head.) From $39, thepotstudio.com.

Work Some Wood

Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Rockport, Maine
You don’t need to know how to use a lathe—or a chisel gouge, or a spindle—to take this one-week introduction to wood turning. By day, you’ll learn to transform cherry and maple into useful forms like a mallet or a lidded container. At night, you’re free to explore the picturesque New England town. Don’t miss dinner at 36 Central Oyster Bar & Grill in bustling main, or nearby Corinne, at Frances by renowned local chef Brian Htx.)

From $350; April 9, with additional fall dates TBA; woodturningschool.org.

LEARN TO WEAVE

WildCraft Studio School, Portland, Oregon & White Salmon, Washington
These crafts centers are among the few places offering workshops in the traditional Coast Salish art form—from a master of weaving who helped preserve the trail and refined techniques from near extinction, no less. They also bring in other Native American artists to lead basketry and beadwork-weaving classes.

From $295, March 18 and 19; April 1, May 20, and June 19 and 20, wildcraftstudio.school.com.

Exclusive to Doorway

Print With a Pro
Block Shop, Joshua Tree, California
Sister Hope and Lily Stockman are known for their dyed scarves, which are hand-printed with carved wooden blocks in Bagdog, India (above). About four times a year, they teach the method during Sunday workshops near California’s Joshua Tree National Park. Working outdoors at their 1950s home-cabin, you’ll create a cotton handkerchief and a silk scarf, from sketching design to finishing (dipping them in indigo).

$350; April 9, with additional fall dates TBA, blockprintstextiles.com.

Learn to Weave

The Clay Studio, Philadelphia
If you’re inspired by the ancient pottery on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, sign up for the one-person introductory wheel workshops at this storied studio (est. 1974). You’ll learn the basics of making a form and complete two or three pieces, which the staff will glaze, fire, and ship home for you. Or live out your Ghost flames at a casual Date Night event. These happen three Fridays a month, and the fee includes beer, wine, and snacks. (You can play “Unchained Melody” in your head.) From $39, thepotstudio.com.

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COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH FANTASTIC BEASTS

African safari vary wildly from country to country. Plan an adventure with this beginner’s guide.

South Africa

**Beckford** Families and first-timers who want easy access to year-round game viewing (parks are within driving distance of Johannesburg and Cape Town).

*Why go:* Almost guaranteed sightings of big cats, elephants, buffaloes, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, and wild dogs are the norm in South Africa, after a major makeover, with new floor-to-ceiling windows and indoor/outdoor showers.

*Where to stay:* Safari Lodge, set in a 36,325-acre private reserve, recently reopened from an extensive renovation (thanks to strictly enforced conservation regulations), as well as the 21 expanded thatched cottages; $850*, angama.com.

**Kruger National Park**

*Why go:* From dawn to dusk, you’ll see almost anything that moves in this vast park.

*Where to stay:* Mjejane Reserve, with its 320,000-acre Selinda Conservancy (depending on water levels) and wildlife, such as lions and rhinos.

*Where to stay:* Out of Africa Safari Camp, set in a private game reserve to the northwest of the park, this is an unforgettable safari, this is an unforgettable experience.


**Horizon July and October, more than a million wildebeests cross the grassy plains.**

**Kenya**

**Beckford** People who want to blend a safari with an education in Maasai culture.

*Why go:* You can visit local villages and experience traditional music and dance. And during the annual migration between July and October, more than a million wildebeests cross the grasplains.

*Where to stay:* The 16 roomy, glass-fronted suites of Angama Mara are perched in a thousand feet above the Great Rift Valley floor on huge (small hill) made famous in Out of Africa. It’s a stunning base from which to see the remote stretches of the region.

*Where to stay:* El Selenio Tented Camp, in Hwange National Park, where the main lounge area overlooks a giant watering hole. From $850*, wilderness-safaris.com.

**Namibia**

**Beckford** Seekers of awe-inspiring wide-open spaces—and those willing to travel far afield to get to them. If you’ve already been once, this is an unforgettable follow-up.

*Why go:* To witness otherworldly landscapes, including some of the world’s highest dunes, at Sossusvlei, the world’s highest dunes, at Sossusvlei.

*Where to stay:* Little Ongava—set in a private game reserve of wooded plains as far as the eye can see—lies up to its name. It has just three suites, each with a plunge pool, viewing deck, and indoor/outdoor showers.

*Where to stay:* Overlooks a giant watering hole. From $3,500 for four nights, all-inclusive, greatplainsconservation.com.

**Botswana**

**Beckford** Travelers who want to explore by land and water—and border it’s home to more than 700 recorded species.

*Why go:* You’ll access some of Africa’s most pristine reserves (thanks to strictly enforced conservation regulations), as well as the Okavango Delta, one of the world’s largest inland delta systems.

*Where to stay:* In northern Botswana’s 22,000-acre Selinda Reserve. Great Plains Conservation offers a four-night adventure that includes walking and canoeing (depending on water levels) and tours of the Selinda Explorer Camp. From $3,000 for four nights, all-inclusive, greatplainsconservation.com.

**Zimbabwe**

**Beckford** Adventure looking to avoid crowds and a high price tag—both achievable here, since the country is relatively new to the safari circuit.

*Why go:* Varied experiences—including walking, canoeing, boat trips, and fishing—are possible, as you’re on some of Africa’s most qualified and experienced guides.

*Where to stay:* Wilderness Safaris Outrigger—ideal way to show your kids the world’s most spectacular landscapes and wildlife up close. From dawn to dusk, you’ll see banded grouper, eagle rays, and parrot fish right off the beach—plus instructors to take you to nearby dive sites.

*Where to stay:* From $515*, wilderness-safaris.com.
GET OFF THE GRID

TreeHouse Point, Issaquah, Washington
If you’ve ever fantasized about living in a treehouse...well, now’s your chance. Set on the banks of the Puget Sound in the nearly four-acre property. a book in one of the six sky-high rooms, which are spread over the nearly four
From $290 per night (two-night minimum), treehousepoint.com.

Smith Fork Ranch, Crawford, Colorado
— Ellie Burrows, cofounder of New York City’s MIndfl—

| Be Here Now |

| Find Inner Peace |

| Chill in an Exotic Oasis |

| Communify With Trees |

| Elevate Destinations |

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